

## **March 2018**

## **Economic Update**

Inflation is rising, 2.2% through February, remaining near the 2 percent level the Federal Open Market Committee targets for price stability and maximum employment. The Fed will most likely increase rates this month as predicted. Credit unions overall will obtain a net interest margin greater than 3 percent for the first time since 2011. The unemployment rate remains stellar at 4.1% with the participation rate up to 63.0%.

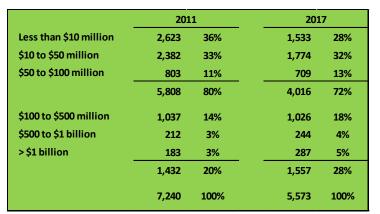
## **Industry Trends - 2017**

NCUA released the year-end data summary obtained from call reports submitted by federally insured credit unions (FICU's). It's no surprise that the number of credit unions continues to shrink, down 3.7% in 2017, ending the year at 5,573. Interestingly, 46% of FICU's have a low-income designation. This statistic has more than doubled from 2011, when there were 7,240 credit unions and only 1,120 were designated as low-income (15%). This classification entitles credit unions to legislated benefits designed to help serve members recognized to have challenges accessing mainstream financial products and services, a core philosophy in which credit unions were founded upon. For further information, refer to NCUA Rules and Regulations 701.34 Fact Sheet: <a href="https://www.ncua.gov/legal/documents/lowincomedesignationfactsheet.pdf">https://www.ncua.gov/legal/documents/lowincomedesignationfactsheet.pdf</a>

The number of credit unions \$100 million in assets and below has decreased 31% since 2011, while those credit union greater than \$100 million in assets has increased 9% during the same period:









- Loans grew 10% and assets grew nearly 7% in 2017
- Total members increased 4%
- Return on average assets has not changed in the last three years, holding steady at 0.78% overall
- Delinquent loans, 0.81%, was down slightly from 0.83% at year-end 2016
- After enjoying a downward trend in net charge-offs from a high of 1.21% in 2009, credit unions experienced a loss rate of 0.60% in 2017, up from 0.40% and 0.55% in 2015 and 2016, respectively
- Net interest margin increased, and is expected to exceed 3.0% in 2018

